

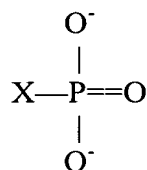
CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) Direct-to-plate method of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate having a hydrophilic surface comprising the steps of:

- E<sup>4</sup>
- (a) making a negative-working imaging layer by coating on the hydrophilic surface a solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles;
  - (b) making a printing master having ink-accepting areas by image-wise exposing the imaging layer to heat or light;
  - (c) applying ink and fountain solution to the printing master;
  - (d) removing the ink-accepting areas from the printing master by supplying a cleaning liquid to the imaging layer thereby obtaining a recycled substrate and
  - (e) treating the recycled substrate by supplying a refreshing liquid consisting of an aqueous solution having a pH<7.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein the negative-working imaging layer comprises a hydrophilic binder.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein the aqueous solution having a pH<7 comprises a compound according to formula I:



(I)

wherein X is OH, O<sup>-</sup> or a polymer backbone.

4. (Original) Method according to claim 3 wherein the compound according to formula (I) is phosphoric acid or a phosphate salt.

5. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

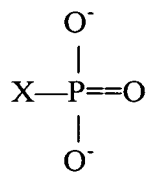
6. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the ~~ink and fountain~~ solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid or the refreshing liquid is sprayed ~~or jetted~~ onto the substrate.

8. (New) Method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

9. (New) Method according to claim 1 wherein the solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid, or the refreshing liquid is jetted onto the substrate.

10. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein the aqueous solution having a pH<7 comprises a compound according to formula I:



(I)

wherein X is OH, O<sup>-</sup> or a polymer backbone.

11. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

12. (New) Method according to claim 3 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

13. (New) Method according to claim 4 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

14. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

15. (New) Method according to claim 3 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

16. (New) Method according to claim 4 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

17. (New) Method according to claim 5 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

18. (New) Method according to claim 8 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

19. (New) Method according to claim 9 wherein the solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid, or the refreshing liquid is jetted onto the substrate.

20. (New) Method according to claim 8 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

21. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

22. (New) Method according to claim 3 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

23. (New) Method according to claim 4 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

24. (New) Method according to claim 5 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

E 4  
(continued)

25 (New) Method according to claim 6 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

26. (New) Method according to claim 7 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

27. (New) Method according to claim 13 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

28. (New) Method according to claim 17 wherein the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

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E<sup>4</sup>  
(concluded)